



**CenturyLink™**

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December 7, 2010

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

***EX PARTE NOTICE***

*Re: Preserving the Open Internet, WC Dkt. No. 09-191*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 6, 2010, Jeb Benedict and I, on behalf of CenturyLink, held separate meetings with Christine Kurth in the office of Commissioner McDowell and Brad Gillen in the office of Commissioner Baker. CenturyLink explained that broadband markets do not need more regulation. The Commission's pro-market, de-regulatory approach to broadband has been in effect with great success for the past decade. Indeed, this rulemaking has been more about proposed rules seeking justification rather than a response to any actual harm or need for rules.

CenturyLink also explained that, whatever approach the Commission takes, parity between competitors is essential—all broadband providers must play by the same rules as a matter of basic economics. Conversely, specialized services should not be swept into the debate as they deliver specific functionalities that customers seek in *addition* to rather than instead of using Internet access service. Disparity in legal rights and obligations for substitutable services will inevitably skew the market away from the most efficient and productive allocation of resources. Indeed, there also must be regulatory balance across the broadband ecosystem; the rules should not favor producers over distributors as many propose today.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this notice is being filed in the above-referenced dockets. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S Lanning

cc: Christine Kurth  
Brad Gillen